

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 03688 042231Z

ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4669

INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 3688

FOR TODMAN AND DUFFEY

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJ: CULTURAL INITIATIVES

REF: STATE 96982

1. WE HAVE ALWAYS GIVEN SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL AND PEOPLE TO PEOPLE PROGRAMS AND BELIEVE EXTENSIVE CULTURAL BENEFITS CAN BE REALIZED FROM SUCH LINKAGES. THESE PROGRAMS ONCE ESTABLISHED ARE GENERALLY ON-GOING AND PROVIDE CONTINUITY AND MUTUALITY THAT IS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS.

2. HERE THE HOST GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTIONS AND PRIVATE SECTOR HAVE EVIDENCED GREAT INTEREST IN SUPPORT OF SCI. DURING A RECENT VISIT OF SCI TOP EXECTUVIES TO CHILE INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT, AND VICE PRESIDENT OF SCI, MAYOR MEKIS OF SANTIAGO, PRESIDENT OF THE IBERO-AMERICAN MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION, EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE TO IMPROVE AND EXPAND THE PROGRAM IN CHILE. HE ALSO STATED THAT SCI COULD COORDINATE CONTACTS DIRECTLY THROUGH HIM AND THROUGH THE CHILEAN MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION. POST SUGGESTS DEPARTMENT GIVE ALL SUPPORT POSSIBLE TO SCI AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH DEFINITIVE PROGRAMS.

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3. CHILEAN THINKERS, WRITERS AND OTHER INTELLECTUALS ARE MOST INTERESTED IN CONTACTS AND RELATIONSHIPS AS WAS EVIDENCED RECENTLY BY THE ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE VOICED BY THE CHILEAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION TO A PROPOSAL OF THE PEOPLE TO PEOPLE PROGRAM FOR A VISIT TO CHILE BY 25 DEANS OF US COLLEGES OF FINE ARTS. THE PROPOSAL WAS APPROVED AND AMOST EXTENSIVE PROGRAM WAS DIVISED.

HOWEVER, AS THE PROPOSAL WAS RECEIVED DURING CHILEAN SUMMER VACATION, THE AFFIRMATIVE REPLY WAS RECEIVED TOO LATE IN THE US FOR THE

GROUP TO MAKE THE VISIT. DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE TO PEOPLE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM HAS CABLED THAT HE HOPES TO DO SOMETHING IN THE FUTURE IN CHILE. POST HAS SUGGESTED THAT PEOPLE TO PEOPLE SEND COPIES OF PROPOSALS AND OTHER PERTINENT CORRESPONDENCE TO USIS SANTIAGO IN ORDER THAT THERE BE NO FURTHER UNFORTUNATE DELAYS. WE URGE SUPPORT FOR THIS PROGRAM

4. ONE OF THE BEST VEHICLES FOR ENGAGING CHILEAN WRITERS, INSTITUTIONS AND THINKERS HAS BEEN THE POST'S FULBRIGHT AND IVP PROGRAMS. UNFORTUNATELY, GRANTS AND OTHER SUPPORT HAVE BEEN CUT BACK IN RECENT YEARS. WE URGE FULL FINANCIAL AND INTELLECTUAL SUPPORT FROM DEPARTMENT FOR THESE PROGRAMS.

5. THE POST HAS LONG BELIEVED THAT CULTURAL AND EXCHANGE PROGRAMS ARE KEY COMPONENTS IN MAINTAINING CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE CHILEAN PEOPLE. THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN A RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF SOME SCHOLARS AND CULTURAL GROUPS TO VISIT CHILE. THE POST FEELS THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD CONTINUE TO NOT ONLY SUPPORT BU TO ENCOURAGE AMERICANS TO VISIT CHILE UNDER THESE PROGRAMS AS WELL AS SCI AND PEOPLE TO PEOPLE. POPPER

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